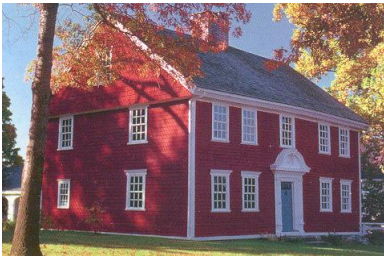

Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

A Hand on the PAST >> An Eye to the FUTURE

Volume XVIII Issue 3

January 2015



Capt. David Judson House c 1750

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, January 30 - 7:00pm

Christ Episcopal Church

2000 Main Street, Stratford

Humor in the 18th Century

Presented by Fran Hendrickson

Oh, How We Laughed!

Whether in shared events or by social comment, witty wonders abound in Colonial America.

Enjoy a tongue-in-cheek peek into 18th century life and humorous events. "Nothing has changed - only the names to protect the guilty!"

Growing up in Lincoln, Massachusetts, Fran was surrounded with the history of the Revolutionary War period. Lincoln is between the famous towns of Lexington and Concord, and was the site of Paul Revere's capture as he rode from Boston to alert sleeping residents of the British invasion.

Fran studied piano from the ages of 4 - 15 years old. It was painful to play in front of others so Fran was a living room musician. Many years later she brought her brothers accordion home and began to teach herself to play. Not long after that, she answered a poster from a dance leader looking for musicians. The poster was placed in the grocery store by Chip Hendrickson! She always told him, "See, it pays to advertise!" Chip sent her to learn to play for dancing with Marshall Barron of English Country Dancing fame and later introduced Fran to Will and Kate Tressler of The Jackson Pike Skifflers band. Fran was accepted into their group and continued to play with them for the next 17 years.



The meeting is open to the Public
Refreshments will be served — Bring a Friend
Note starting time now 7:00pm

A thank you from the Town for our help with the Town's 375th celebration

At the end of this wonderful year of celebration, we'd like to offer a special "Thank You" to all of our Stratford 375 partners and co-participants especially the Stratford Historical Society, the Library, the Bridgeport library and History Center, the Perry House, Stratford's Economic Development Department, the Celebrate Stratford Committee, the Stratford 375 Committee, and the Stratford Sister Cities Organization. Without your generosity and support none of this year's wonderful celebrations would have been possible! It's impossible to say "thank you" loudly enough, or sincerely enough, to the Stratford Historical Society, Carol, Gloria, Shirley and Sandy, of the Stratford Historical Society, you are such an integral part of what makes this town's history meaningful and relevant! Happy New Year and on to Stratford 400!

A STRATFORD TIMES Editorial

- November 11, 1921



The Day We Celebrate

Today, as we participate in a double celebration, first let us give thought to the anniversary of the termination of hostilities which resulted in such havoc. First, let us contemplate the offerings of America's man power to an ideal - offerings made without hope of material national gain - then let us do honor to those of our young men who honored their town in the world service.

The second feature of today's pageantry is the dedication of Connecticut's finest and longest bridge.

Washington Bridge is an achievement of the architect and the artisan and a high compliment to both.

In the days of preparation for today's ceremony, the citizens of Milford and Stratford have joined heartily and in a fine spirit of neighborliness in their endeavors to make the occasion one to be happily remembered.

We have noticed the desire of the representatives from both towns to give the other fellow the advantage and are convinced that the very best results are easily obtained when the spirit of harmony and concord prevails in the deliberations of any concern, whether great or small.

We trust the new bridge may prove to be emblematic of the link of fellowship between our Milford neighbors and ourselves, as well as a physical pathway for commercial intercourse. It's a great day. Let us recognize its opportunities.

Summer History Camps

Summer camps are being planned. Camp 1 will be July 6-10, from 9-12:30, and Camp 2 will be July 27- August 1, from 9-12. The cost of each camp is \$150 for the week which includes all supplies and daily snack.

Both camps have limited openings of 20 campers, so if you want to reserve a spot, call now before we begin advertising to the public. Your spot will be held as long as you pay the fee by June 1st. Call the Society at 203-378-0630 and ask for Sandy to reserve a place.



Paradise Green

A brick school house stood on Paradise Green before 1838.

The elm trees on the Green were planted on December 12, 1846 by Levi Curtis and his son Levi, Robert G. Curtis, Captain Stiles Judson and his son George, Eli Lewis and L. Wilcoxson. The trees were brought from the farm of Stiles Judson. It took one day to plant them which was considered fast work.

From a letter sent to Miss Georgi Wilcoxson, 3426 North Main, Stratford, Ct. Dec.23, 1938.

The Society would welcome your sharing with us any images or other information concerning the Brick School House that you might have.

OUR HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

On December 6th, we had many visitors, inspite of the weather, for our Holiday Open House. The Junior Society were in period costumes and gave tours of each room. Guests were impressed with their knowledge of the Captain David Judson House. Santa was here listening to the children's Christmas wishes. Everyone was tapping their toes to holiday music by the Hearthsidewaits. A wonderful time was had by all.





On July 15, 1915, the pavilion at the Lordship Manor beachfront opened for business. Crowds of visitors from Bridgeport and Stratford, brought by trolley car and motorcar, lined the beach, and scores of swimmers enjoyed the clear waters of the Sound. With a pavilion, a casino, and a golf course, the beach resort became a popular summer destination.

Stratford Historical Society

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On the Web: www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming Events: Call for Information

Feb. 23 - Governing Board Meeting - 1pm

Mar. 27 - General Membership Meeting - 7pm

2014 ANNUAL ATTENDANCE CHART BY MONTH

MONTH	HOUSE	MISC.	EVENT	MEET-INGS	GROUP	SCHOO	CAMP	DO-CENT	OFFICE	TOTAL
JAN				70					10	80
FEB								14	5	19
MAR				30					5	35
APR						120		11	0	131
MAY				50		623			16	689
JUN	7	5			9				10	31
JUL	17	3			27		71	35	14	167
AUG	14	2	135						8	159
SEP	15	3	700	40	9			14	10	791
OCT	15	3			55	672			15	760
NOV				70					10	80
DEC			50						10	60
TO-TAL	68	16	885	260	100	1415	71	74	113	3002

If you look at the 2014 ANNUAL ATTENDANCE CHART BY MONTH shown above, you can get an idea of how many people in this community the Stratford Historical Society serves. In 2014, in addition to the regular annual events, the Society was part of the Stratford of the World Sister Cities event, the 375th Anniversary of the Town's founding and our Holiday Open House.

As you can see, not the least of these regularly scheduled activities are the school tours for third and fifth graders in all the public and parochial schools in town. We are proud to be able to offer this service to the children of this town on a regular basis. The docents in this program conducted 16 days of Revolutionary War tours in October for 30 fifth grade classes and 15 days of Stratford Colonial History tours in October for third graders.

Each fifth grade tour requires eight docents and each third grade tour requires five. Once you start to multiply you find out that these tours require a lot of docents. We are very fortunate to have enough people available willing to give four or five mornings of their time in both May and September to teach the children about their town. This is only possible because we continue to attract and train people who love history and like to work with children and who understand just how worthwhile their contribution is to the education of Stratford's children.

If you haven't already joined us and are thinking about doing something that will make a difference, or if you know someone who is looking for something meaningful to do, please contact the Stratford Historical Society and sign up for our docent training classes. These classes are held for two hours one morning a week for five weeks in March to train for the Revolutionary War tours, and two additional weeks in September for the Early Stratford History tours.

By joining you will be with a remarkable group of people for an experience you won't regret.

Judson House & Museum Visitors - 2014

Walk-in Visitors from Connecticut Towns of : Stratford, Bridgeport, Branford, Derby, Fairfield, Hamden, Milford, Orange, Shelton, Southbury and Trumbull.

and from the States of: Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington State.

and, also, the Sister Cities Visitors were from: Australia, Canada, England and New Zealand.

Various Groups served:

s

Tours given: Unity Hill United Church, Derby Historical Society, Chinese Students from Education First, Curtis Family Reunion, Sister Cities, and provided a Library Walking Tour

School Tours: May - Fifth Grade Revolutionary War,
Oct. - Third Grade Colonial Life

And , we staffed the House and Museum for **Stratford's 375th Anniversary Celebration**, and for our **Holiday Open House**

Hosts and Hostesses for the 39 days of our scheduled Sunday and Wednesday

tours of the House and Museum:

Joe Laput, Lauren Pekar, Dorothy Bobko, Ann Eisinger, Mary Evers, Nancy Sirois, Janet Jacopian, Molly Brown, Linda Woods, Judy Kurmay, and Georgene Fasanella.